

NSC BRIEFING

20 May 1954

THE TACHENS

I. 15-16 May, 3,000 Chinese Communist troops landed on three islands within 50 miles of Tachens.

A. Similar landings made spring, summer years past. This year naval clashes (severe damage two Nationalist DE's), air activity. (MIG-15's have shot down Nat fighters.)

B. Communist force included 20 ships, four MIG-15's giving air cover.

II. May presage attack on Tachens, important Nationalist listening post and defensive outpost.

NAVY DECLASSIFICATION/RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS ON FILE

25X1X4

- A. [REDACTED] troop concentrations coastal Chekiang, army group headquarters, increased naval strength in the area.
- B. Most this not yet confirmed; consensus is recent moves part Communist war of nerves.
- C. Nationalist reaction conflicting. Some officials see no threat while Geneva conference continues; others believe assault imminent.

III. Nationalist defenses on Tachens.

- A. One of best divisions ^(15,000) plus about 5,000 guerrillas.
- B. State of readiness considered excellent, but vulnerable to air assault and amphibious attacks by night.

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- C. Reinforcements being sent.
- D. Would take concerted attack by three Communists divisions to take Tachens. (Current G-2 estimate).

SECRET **WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE DIGEST**
Security Information
Special Handling Required
Not Releasable to Foreign Nationals

No. 30-53

24 July 53

SPECIAL REPORT

Islands off the Fukien-Chekiang Coast

Since mid-May, the islands off the southeast coast of China have been the scene of increasing activity. A number of these islands have been held by the Chinese Nationalists as outposts in the defense of Formosa and the Pescadores as well as advanced bases for raids on Communist shipping, as points for observation of Communist activity, and as potential bases for future action against the mainland. These Nationalist held islands have long been a thorn in the side of the Chinese Communist Government, and there are indications that the recent Communist moves may be the beginning of a determined effort to remove the threatening irritant.

The Nationalist held islands fall into three general groupings; a northern group lying between 29-00N and 27-00N, a central group between 27-00N and 25-30N, and a southern group between 25-30N and 24-00N. The northern group is centered on the important Ta-Ch'en islands, the central on Ma-Tsu Shan and Pai-Ch'uan Tao (White Dog Island), and the southern on Chin-Men Tao (Quemoy Island) (See graphic pages 10 and 11). To date, the Communist threat to the islands has consisted of the concentration of troops and shipping along the adjacent mainland coast, the occupation of and buildup of strength in formerly unoccupied islands near Nationalist held islands of the northern and central groups, the capture of one Nationalist garrisoned island (Chikushan) and occupation of some islands recently evacuated by the Nationalists in the northern group, and some probing operations in the southern group.

On 29 May, the Communists occupied five islands (Yanghsu, Huoch'Ashan, Hsiaolushan, Talushan, and Pei Chi Shan) in the northern group. At the time of seizure, Talushan was occupied by 50 Chinat guerrillas. During June, eight other islands of the northern group were occupied, one of which (Chikushan) was defended by Nationalist troops. Three of these were later abandoned and remain unoccupied.

Most, if not all, of these islands, are important only as they are related to the defensibility of the key Nationalist islands in the area, especially the Ta-Ch'en islands. Their occupation by the Communists was a sufficient threat, however, to bring about an attempt by the nationalists on 19 and 20 June to retake three of them. In the course of the fierce fighting that followed, the Nationalist forces temporarily occupied Yanghsu and Hsiaolushan and gained a foothold on Talushan, but were unable to withstand the Communist counter-attacks and the islands remained in Communist hands.

Since the first of July the Communists have occupied six islands of the central group, posing a threat to Ma'Tsu and Pai-Ch'uan Tao. Four of these islands and at least two others were evacuated by the Nationalists without action.

Two reports have been received of attempts to land small numbers of troops on islands of the southern groups, apparently for reconnaissance. Two of these incidents were on Chin-men and in each case the raiders were successful in taking one Nationalist prisoner. The other attempt, on nearby Ta-Tan Tao, was unsuccessful.

Chinese Communist activities so far would seem to indicate a determined effort to remove the threat of the Nationalist held coastal islands. In addition, a POW interrogation report indicates the existence of a Communist plan for the conquest of all

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119°

120°

121°

RET SECURITY INFORMATION

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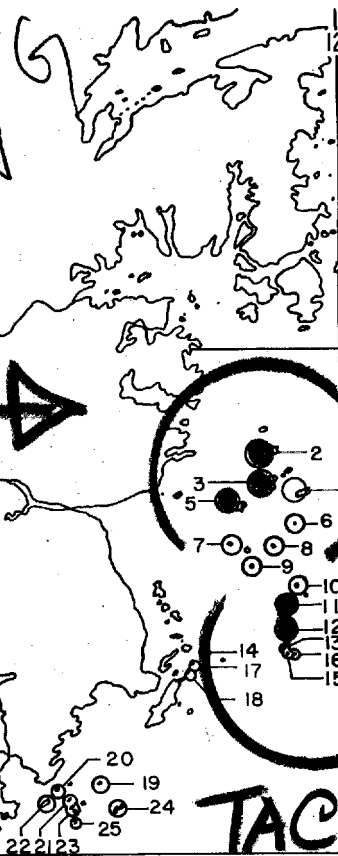
NO.	NAME OF ISLAND	LAT	LONG
1	YU-SHAN LIEH TAO	28° 50'	122° 15'
5	WU-P'ENG HSU	28° 40'	121° 54'
9	PAI-CHIA SHAN	28° 38'	121° 52'
3	I-CHIANG SHAN (IKIANG SHAN)	28° 36'	121° 48'
10	CH'ING HSU (SHE SHAN)	28° 32'	121° 56'
11	SHANG-TA-CH'EN SHAN	28° 29'	121° 53'
12	HSIA-TA-CH'EN SHAN	28° 27'	121° 53'
13	HSIA HSU	28° 25'	121° 53'
14	KUEI HSU	28° 24'	121° 42'
15	CHUNG HSU	28° 24'	121° 54'
16	SHANG HSU	28° 24'	121° 54'
24	P'I SHAN (PEN SHAN)	28° 06'	121° 30'
27	NAN CHI SHAN	27° 28'	121° 04'
35	TUNG-YIN SHAN (YIN SHAN)	26° 22'	120° 30'
36	LANG TAO (LARNE IS.)	26° 20'	120° 12'
37	KAOTENG-HSU (PEI-SHA-TAO)	26° 16'	119° 58'
38	PEI-KAN-T'ANG (TANGKI TAO)	26° 14'	119° 58'
39	MA-TSU SHAN	26° 09'	119° 56'
40	PAI-CH'UAN LIEH TAO (WHITE DOG)	25° 58'	119° 55'
41	TUNG-CHIA	25° 17'	119° 46'
42	WU-CH'U HSU	25° 00'	119° 27'
43	HSIA-WU-CH'U HSU	24° 58'	119° 29'
44	CHIN-MEN TAO (QUEMOY, KINMEN)	24° 27'	118° 23'
45	LIEH HSU (LITTLE QUEMOY IS.)	24° 26'	118° 15'
46	TA-TAN TAO	24° 23'	118° 10'
47	ERH-TAN TAO	24° 22'	118° 09'
48	TUNG-TING HSU (CHAPEL IS.)	24° 10'	118° 14'

7	TACH'AHUA	28° 38'	121° 46'
17	CHIKUSHAN	28° 24'	121° 44'
18	CHIENSHAMAN SHAN	28° 22'	121° 42'
19	TAT'UNGLING	28° 08'	121° 28'
20	YANGHSU	28° 08'	121° 24'
21	HSIAOLUSHAN	28° 06'	121° 24'
22	HUOCH'ASHAN	28° 08'	121° 22'
23	TALUSHAN	28° 06'	121° 24'
25	CHIENSHAN	28° 02'	121° 22'
26	PEI CHI SHAN	27° 38'	121° 12'
29	PEI SHUANG LIEH TAO	26° 41'	120° 28'
30	SHUANG FENG TAO (FOU YIN SHAN)	26° 36'	120° 10'
31	NU GEU SEN	26° 34'	120° 09'
32	MA CHICK	26° 33'	120° 08'
33	CHIN CHU-TAO (TASIYANG SPIDER IS.)	26° 32'	120° 08'
34	CHUI SHAN	26° 30'	120° 08'

NEW COMMUNIST
TAKE-OVERS

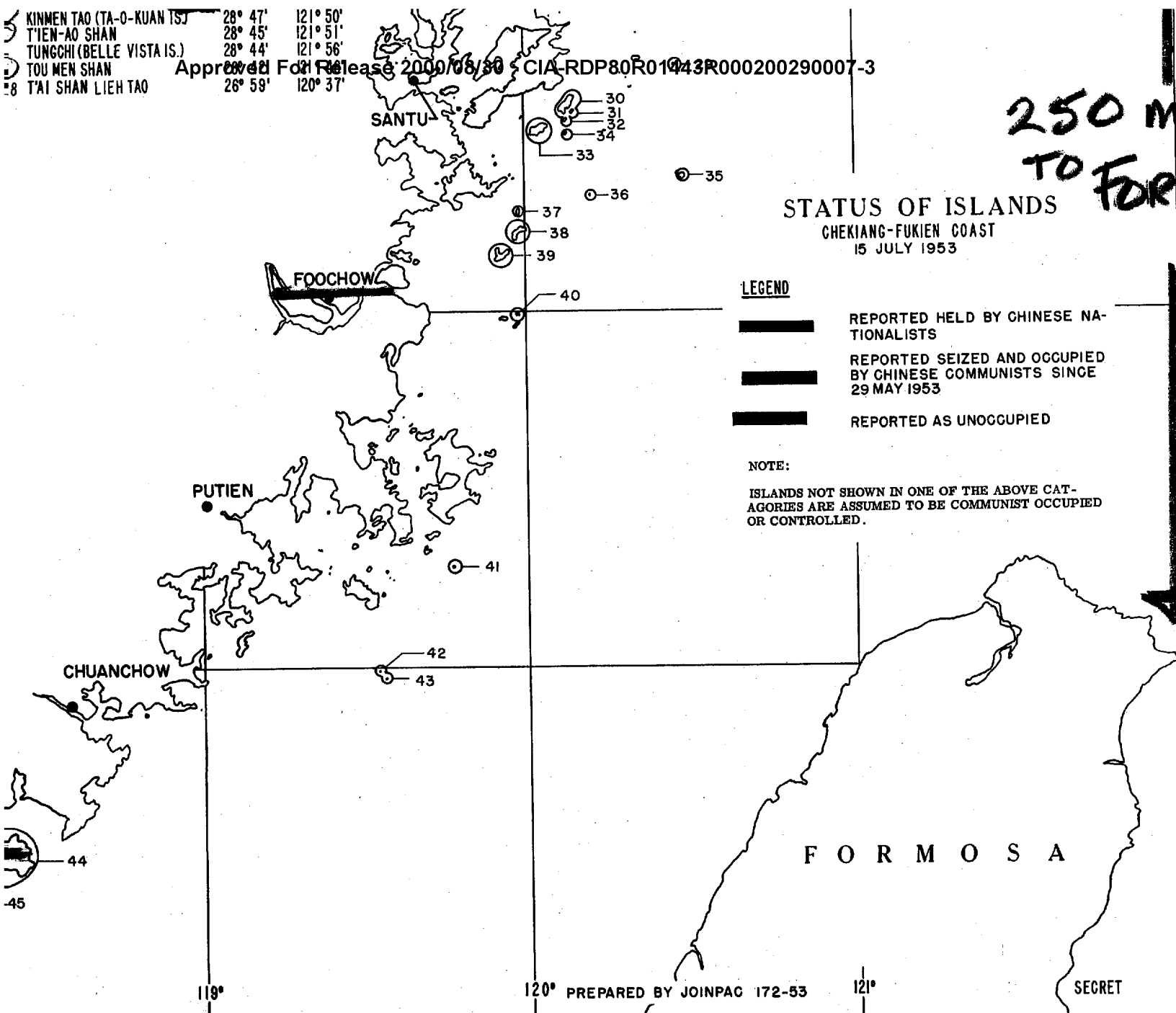
C H I N A

WENCHOW



5 KINMEN TAO (TA-O-KUAN TSJ) 28° 47' 121° 50'
 T'YEN-AO SHAN 28° 45' 121° 51'
 TUNGCHI (BELLE VISTA IS.) 28° 44' 121° 56'
 6 TOU MEN SHAN 28° 44' 121° 56'
 8 TAI SHAN LIEH TAO 26° 59' 120° 37'

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SPECIAL REPORT

Islands off the Fukien-Chekiang Coast (cont'd)

the islands of the northern group by the end of August. The Communists certainly appear to have the capability to take any or all of these islands, if they are willing to pay the price.

Few of the northern islands are heavily defended, but it is reported that the two Ta-Ch'en islands are being reenforced from Formosa by the 46th Division of the 75th Army. This army, with a strength of about 10,000 men, has recently been reorganized, and re-equipped, and is believed to be well trained and effective. With this reenforcement and the advantages of naturally defensible terrain, the Ta-Ch'ens might prove a costly objective to take by assault.

The other islands of the northern group and those of the central group, with the exception of Ma'Tsu, where there is a regular army division, are occupied primarily by guerrillas. Most heavily defended of all the islands is Chin-Men, held by about 50,000 Nationalist regular army troops. It was here that major components of the Communist 28th and 29th Armies were soundly defeated when they attempted an assault on the island in 1949.

The graphic presentation (pages 10 and 11) of the status of the Southeast China Coastal islands represents the best information available as of 15 July 1953. The status of islands not otherwise indicated are assumed to be Communist held. Further action is to be expected and any of these islands may change hands at any time.

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COMMUNIST CHINA

Coastal Operations

The increasing activity along the Chekiang and Fukien coast (see preceding article) has once again focused interest and concern in the capabilities of the Chinese Communist Navy.

The strength and disposition of the CCN was described in detail by Pacific Command WID No. 21-53 of 22 May 1953 and remains essentially the same. The major operational strength of the CCN remains eight ex-Japanese frigates, a corvette, three gunboats, and at least forty motor torpedo boats. In addition, there are three older gunboats, sixteen river gunboats, four sub-chasers, and about fifty amphibious landing ships of various categories. The principal areas of "concentration" of CCN vessels, in order of importance, are the Shanghai-Woosung area, Tsingtao and the Canton-Whampoa area.

Recognition of the fact that the CCN is a third-rate navy by Western standards and a recitation of the strength and disposition of their vessels does not afford, however, a realistic estimate of their offensive capability with regard to operations along the China coast. The manner in which the units of the CCN are being utilized in such operations can best be appreciated by realizing that the CCN is subordinate to the Chinese Army and, as such, apparently is utilized as a supporting weapon of the ground forces,

Phil has remainder

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*of reported operations -
filed under Port of Canton*